



Director of
Central
Intelligence

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National Intelligence Daily (Cable)

14 November 1980

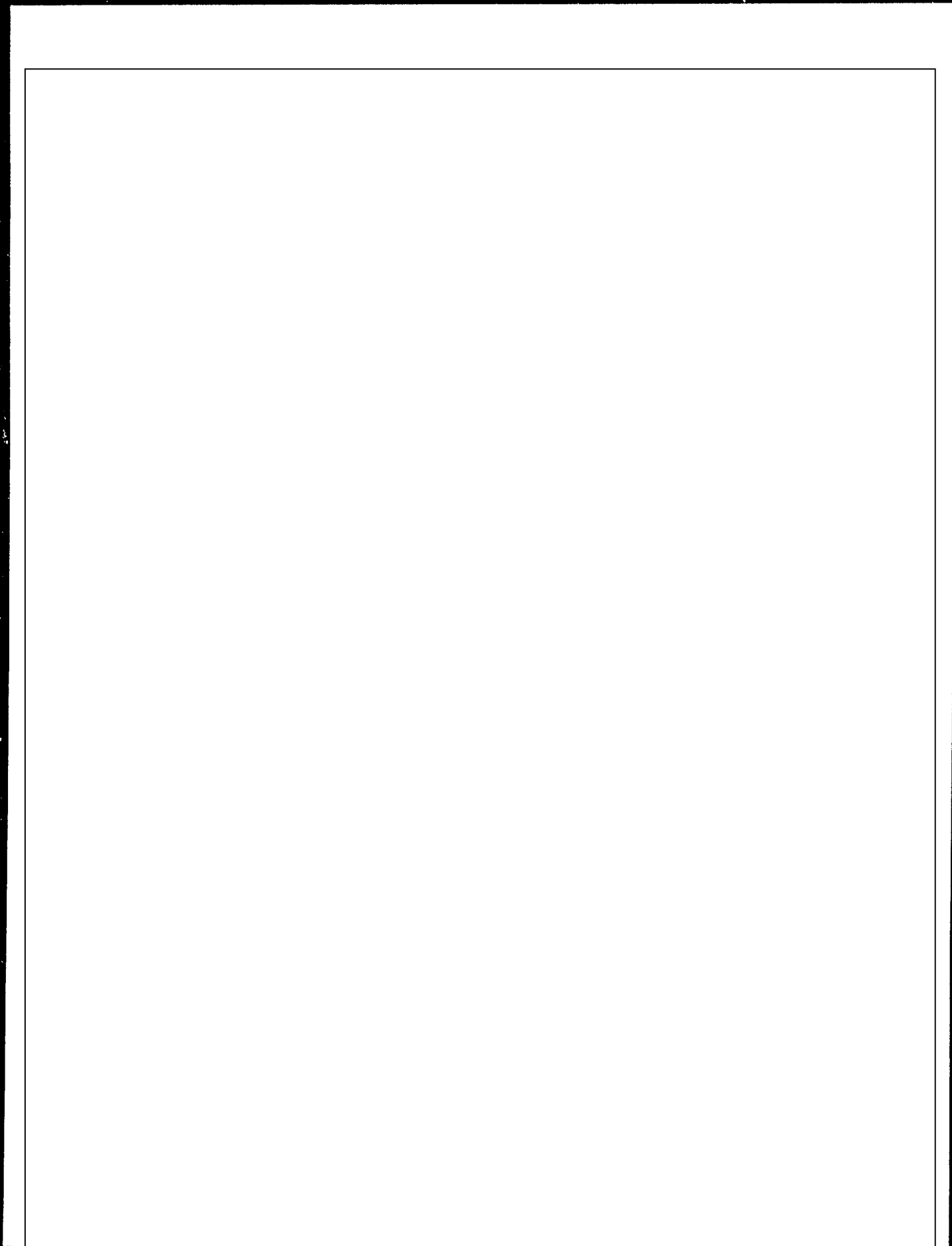
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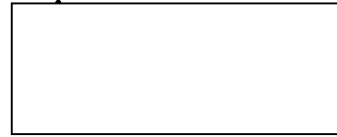
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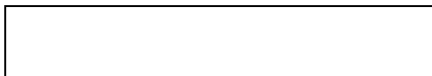
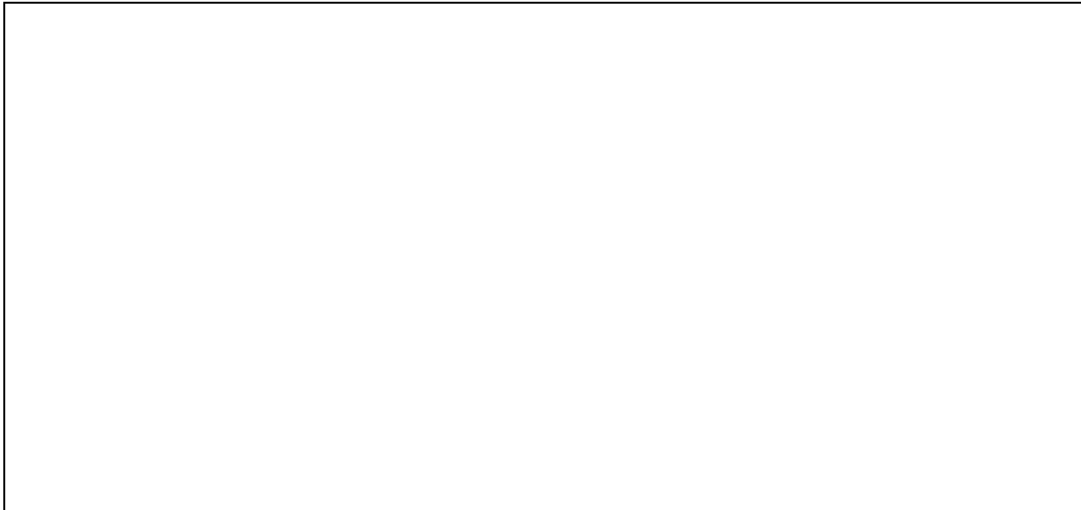
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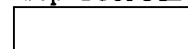
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SITUATION REPORTS

IRAN-IRAQ

Kuwait officially protested yesterday to the Iranian Ambassador about Wednesday's airstrike on the Al Abdali border post. []

[] another airstrike on the same post occurred on 5 November. The Kuwaitis originally considered that strike an accident because the bombs' arming devices were not set, but the two incidents will heighten Kuwait's anxiety that Iran will attack its oil facilities. The public expressions of support from Saudi Arabia and Qatar yesterday will do little to alleviate these fears. []

Kuwait probably will continue limited economic support for Iraq because of pressure from Baghdad and Arab nationalist sympathies. It may, however, proclaim its neutrality more rigorously and temporarily reduce transshipments to Iraq. []

Baghdad clearly hopes the Iranian hostility toward Kuwait will drive Arabs more firmly into the Iraqi camp.

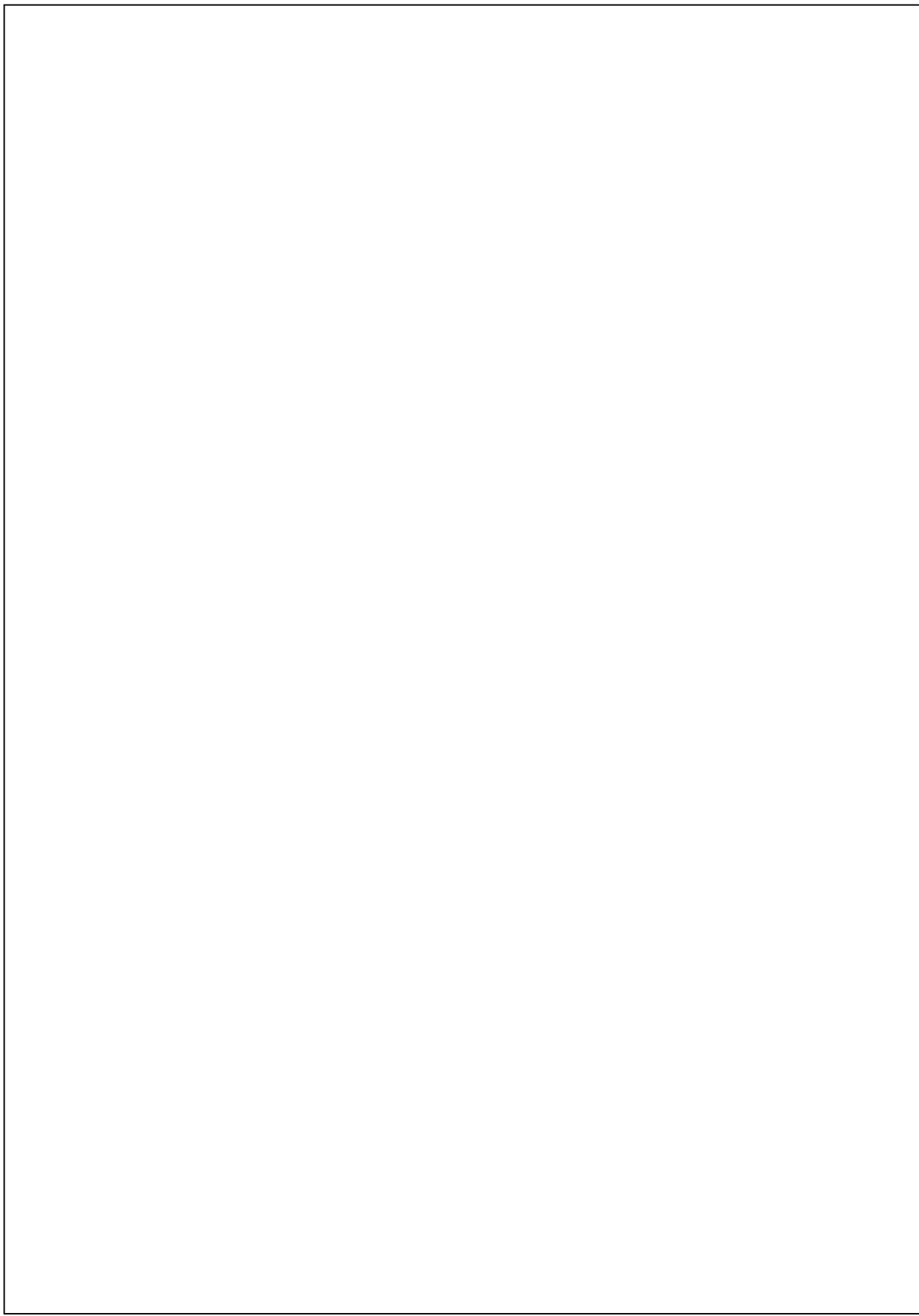
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The Iranian airstrike will make it easier for Baghdad to rally support for its cause at the Arab summit meeting scheduled for later this month in Amman. Only Jordan has openly supported Iraq's war effort, although several Persian Gulf states, including Kuwait, have quietly provided Iraq with economic assistance, such as cash grants, alternative oil supplies for Iraq's regular customers, and transshipment of goods. []

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